

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** April 22, 2009  
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## **Improperly Attached Trailer Causes a Traffic Nightmare**

Traffic was backed up for miles as the three southbound lanes of I-405 just north of SR-520 were closed for approximately 90 minutes while State Troopers and WA Department of Transportation crews worked frantically to clean up over 200 sheets of drywall that covered the roadway.

At approximately 1:40 p.m. Tuesday afternoon witnesses observed the trailer of a GTS Interior Supply truck begin to whip uncontrollably. The trailer became detached from the truck and flipped onto its side, causing the load of drywall to spill all over the highway.

The WSP Commercial Vehicle Division conducted a thorough safety inspection of the truck and determined that the hitch's pintle hook locking mechanism was not secure, causing the trailer to disconnect.

No other motorists were struck by the trailer or debris and no injuries were reported. The driver was cited for failure to secure load and will be responsible for the cost of the clean up.

The WSP wants to remind motorists to complete a safety check of your trailer and load before driving it onto the roadway. Make sure the trailer is properly attached, all lighting equipment is operational, and the load is properly secure. The WSP also wants to encourage motorists to call 9-1-1 to report all unsecured loads. When calling you will be asked to provide details of what you are observing, if you are a witness or a victim, your location, direction of travel, color of the truck and trailer, the company name, and a license plate if available.



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